

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EB-11 INT-08 DOTE-00 COME-00

SIL-01 LAB-06 ACDA-19 A-01 SY-10 OPR-02 FBO-01 OC-06

CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

SAM-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /185 W
----- 005116

R 121748Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0392

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW

SUBJECT: MORE ON PUBLIC SERVICES STRIKE

REF: BONN 1637, 2272

1. STRIKING PUBLIC SERVICE UNIONS REJECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW OFFER OF A 10 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE WITH A MINIMUM INCREASE OF 140 DM A MONTH AND BEGAN PREPARATIONS TO INCREASE PRESSURES AGAINST THE FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. UNION SPOKESMEN SAID THAT THE STRIKES ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO LAST 48 HOURS WILL BE EXTENDED INDEFINITELY. THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR CALLED A CABINET MEETING ON THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 12 IN PREPARATION FOR A NEW ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 12 AT 1500 HOURS.

2. UNION LEADERS CLAIM THAT 50,000 ADDITIONAL WORKERS WENT ON STRIKE TODAY, JOINING THE 150,000 WHO WALKED OUT ON FEBRUARY 11. ACCORDING TO UNION SOURCES, STRIKES WHICH STOPPED BUS, STREETCAR AND SUBWAY TRAFFIC, STREET CLEANING AND GARBAGE COLLECTION IN MOST CITIES ON FEBRUARY 11 HAVE SPREAD TODAY TO THE POSTAL SERVICES, CITY ADMINISTRATION AND TO RIVER PILOTS AND HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE CENTERS. THEY ALSO SAID THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE BUNDESWEHR RUCKIN KIEL AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT WAREHOUSES IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG.

3. UNION SOURCES TOLD LABATT THAT A BREAKDOWN CLOSED THE SUELFELD LOCK ON THE MIDDLELAND CANAL AT WOLFSBURG SEVERAL HOURS AFTER THE CIVIL SERVANTS HAD TAKEN OVER OPERATION OF THE LOCK DURING THE STRIKE. THEY SAID THAT THE CANAL TRAFFIC IS NOW FLOWING NORMALLY AND THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNION HAD EXEMPTED THE SUELFELD LOCK FROM FURTHER STRIKE ACTION.

4. OFFICIALS AT PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS UNIONETV HEADQUARTERS TOLD LABATT THAT STRIKES IN CITY TRANSPORTATION, STREET CLEANING AND GARBAGE COLLECTION IN BERLIN WHICH BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 11, WERE EXTENDED TODAY TO INCLUDE GAS, WATER AND SEWAGE

PLANTS, CITY OPERATED WAREHOUSES, THEATER AND VARIOUS
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, BUT THAT EMERGENCY CREWS WILL

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SAM-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /185 W
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MAINTAIN GAS, WATER AND SEWAGE SERVICES. ELECTRIC POWER WILL NOT BE AFFECTED SINCE THE UNIONS AND THE BEWAG COMPANY HAVE NEGOTIATED A SEPARATE CONTRACT WITH ITS EMPLOYEES. WORKERS ON THE CITY RAILROAD SYSTEM (S-BAHN) WHICH IS OPERATED BY THE EAST GERMAN REICHSBAHN STOPPED SERVICES TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH WORKERS IN WEST BERLIN. THE DGB PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS UNION OBJECTED THEIR GESTURE POINTING OUT THAT THE RAILROAD EMPLOYEES OF EAST BERLIN ARE DENIED THE BASIC RIGHT TO STRIKE AND THAT THE OETV COULD DO WITHOUT THEIR HELP.

5. SERVICE IS NORMAL IN BREMEN AND HAMBURG. THESE CITIES, WHICH DO NOT BELONG TO THE FEDERAL, STATE AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS HAVE REACHED SETTLEMENTS WITH THEIR EMPLOYEES FOLLOWING THE BREMERHAVEN AGREEMENT (REFTEL). THE BREMEN CITY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM HAS CONCLUDED AN AGREEMENT PROVIDING A PAY INCREASE OF 12 PERCENT WITH A MINIMUM INCREASE OF 185 DM PER MONTH.

6. UNION LEADERS SAY THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DO NOT AGREE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON A NEW OFFER. THE FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS FAVOR A 10.5 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE WITH A 160 DM A MONTH MINIMUM WHILE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PROPOSE AN INCREASE OF 11 PERCENT WITH A MONTHLY MINIMUM OF 145 DM.

7. FEDERAL INTERIOR MINISTER GENSCHER, FDP, ANNOUNCED THAT STRIKERS AND WORKERS PREVENTED FROM CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES BY THEIR STRIKING COLLEAGUES WILL NOT BE PAID. HOWEVER, OETV HAS AN ESTIMATED STRIKE FUND BETWEEN 110 AND 120 MILLION DM AND OETV MEMBERS ON STRIKE

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WILL RECEIVE BENEFITS AVERAGING DM 30 PER DAY.
HILLENBRAND

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